

**STATE SENATOR • IRMA CLARK-COLEMAN • 3RD DISTRICT**

# **Clark-Coleman Press Release**

P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-0990 • Fax: 517-373-5338  
E-mail: SenIClark-Coleman@senate.michigan.gov • [www.senate.michigan.gov/dem/SD03](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/dem/SD03)



March 6, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: SEN. IRMA CLARK-COLEMAN

PHONE: 517/373-0990

## **SEN. CLARK-COLEMAN STANDS UP FOR DETROIT Amendments Put Detroit Water and Sewer Critics on the Hot Seat**

(Lansing)- State Senator Irma Clark-Coleman stood up to critics of the Detroit Water and Sewer System today by demonstrating that the water rate controversy has far more to do with politics than consumer protection. The Detroit Legislator made her point by offering a pair of amendments which, if adopted, would have immediately lowered water and sewage rates for consumers.

Clark-Coleman's first amendment, which was defeated on a voice vote, would have capped the rate that communities can markup the cost of water and sewage services to consumers at 15%. Many suburban communities are tacking on huge markups on local water and sewer rates. The average community markup rate is 150% and some markup rates are in excess of 300%.

"We have suburban politicians ratcheting up the cost on consumers by as much as 336%, and then attempting to place the blame on Detroit," said Sen. Clark-Coleman. "If the critics

were serious about reducing rates to consumers, and not just engaging in Detroit-bashing, they would support my proposal.”

Sen. Clark-Coleman made her point again with a second amendment, defeated along party lines, which would have restricted local governments from marking up water and sewage rates by no more than 100% above the DWSS charge.

###